

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HAVANA 00067 110125Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 /103 W
-----111242 110135Z /64

R 102148Z JAN 78
FM USINT HAVANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 908
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L HAVANA 0067

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR PORG MR CU
SUBJECT: CUBANS AND SAHARA ISSUE

REF: NOUAKCHOTT 64 AND PREVIOUS

1. DURING COURSE OF USINT OFFICER CALL ON DIRECTOR OF UN POLITICAL AFFAIRS (JIMENEZ), MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS, JANUARY 9, LATTER INDICATED THAT CUBANS HAVE CIRCULATED LETTER TO COORDINATING COMMITTEE OF NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT CALLING FOR MEETING ON SAHARA BECAUSE OF CONTINUED FRENCH MILITARY ACTION, DESPITE POLISARIO RETURN OF GROUP OF FRENCH CAPTIVES. MISS JIMENEZ CHARACTERIZED FRENCH ACTION AS NOW CLEARLY "OUTSIDE MILITARY INTERFERENCE", RATHER THAN HUMANITARIAN EFFORT TO PROTECT FRENCH CITIZENS.

2. MISS JIMENEZ ADDED THAT THERE APPEARS TO BE GROWING CONSENSUS IN NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT THAT SAHARA ISSUE SHOULD BE DISCUSSED - BUT SOME COUNTRIES CONTINUE TO PREFER OAU OVER NON-ALIGNED FORUM.

3. COMMENT: CUBAN PRESSURE ON FRENCH SHOWS THAT HAVANA DOES NOT
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SHRINK FROM MAINTAINING DOUBLE STANDARDS ON OUTSIDE INVOLVEMENT IN AFRICA. WE PRESUME THAT CUBANS ARE AGAIN RESPONDING TO ALGERIAN REQUEST FOR SUPPORT (PROBABLY PASSED ON DURING RAUL CASTRO'S RECENT VISIT TO ALGIERS). NEW CUBAN INITIATIVE IS INTERESTING BECAUSE HAVANA MODERATED ITS STAND ON SAHARA IN LATE NOVEMBER- EARLY DECEMBER CONVERSATIONS WITH MOROCCAN AMBASSADOR AND FRENCH SPECIAL EMISSARY PONIATOWSKI (SEE 77HAVANA 807). CUBAN RESPONSIVE-

NESS TO BOUMEDIENNE MAY BE CALCULATED TO INFLUENCE ALGERIA TO MAINTAIN NEUTRAL POSTURE ON ETHIOPIA AT TIME WHEN CUBANS ARE ESCALATING THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN THAT COUNTRY.
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